



The Ground Plane

SOUTH BAY
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION /
ARRL MEMBER CLUB
SINCE 1974



President's Message

by rudi wiedemann - kf6rlq

Summertime was meant for vacations, picnics, barbecues, and fun in the sun. It's also a great opportunity to try out your favorite radio in a new and novel location. Imagine trying out that mini-HT with the new headset while riding your bike on a trail. Or maybe working solar QRP from your picnic site under a nice shady tree. Personally I enjoy working HF DX from my portable antenna while RV camping on a mountainside. It provides a whole new dimension to camping, especially when you contact another camper. The quiet time is also great for puttering around with new antenna ideas without any local interference. I have a friend whose two boys just graduated from college and are touring the US for 3 months with an APRS tracker setup so their parents can follow their progress!

So next time you're planning an outing, think about how some of that radio hardware might enhance your experience and maybe even challenge those grey cells along the way.

Happy QSOs to you!
Rudi - KF6RLQ

Ham Radio "Fox" Hunts

By Paul Shinn -

Right now, I am trying to build some interest in the valley with hunts on the second Saturday of each month (the next one is July 8th). Also, I have hidden transmitters at the last couple of Livermore ham swaps. I'm not even sure if anyone will ever participate in the swap hunts other than the usual bay area hunters, but what the heck.

Anyway, there is also a sort of website just getting started about valley hunts. Check out: <http://www.qsl.net/kg6aoh>. I am not a ham on the air to promote the hunts, nor am I into any clubs, so interest has been primarily from the usual bay area guys coming all the way to the valley.

Good news is for the first time, for this next valley hunt I have actually talked someone else into hiding, which will finally give me a chance to hunt.

Thanks,

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July Program - Antarctica

Plan on attending the July
Meeting See You There at 7:30
July 19, 2000

Field Day 2000

by Antoinette Marchand, KA3RDV



Emergency preparedness in the United States is backed up by some 600,000 licensed Ham radio operators, composing a cadre of technical expertise capable of passing information instantly around the world. So Field Day is an emergency preparedness drill for a network of folks poised to support the police and fire departments where needed. Communications can overlay any event from finding lost children to walking firelines to coordinating relief for earthquakes, floods, and heavy weather.

This critical function was underscored by the appearance at the event of such people as Fremont Fire Chief Dan Lydon, Tom Mulvihill, and a half dozen firefighters from the Fremont Fire Department as well as Bill Rykland, the founder of CERT. Field Day chairman Alan Kittrell (KE6YKK) coordinated a very successful 24 hours according to Club President Rudi Wiedemann (KF6RLQ).

I arrived shortly after 7 a.m. on Sunday, June 25. Most of the folks standing around the breakfast table had been at the site since Satur-

day, June 24. The contest actually ran from 11:00 a.m. Saturday to 11:00 a.m. Sunday. The sizzle of sausage on the barbecue blended with the gentle beep of Morse floating from the trees and tents. It had been a night of contacts for about 40 Ham operators. The generator was still humming (amazingly quietly) and a blanket of antennas overhead was busily providing access to 2, 6, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, and 160 meters. There were magmounts, beam antennas, "slinky" dipoles, verticals, long wires, and even a "tree antenna". The City of Fremont loaned a "cherry picker" to hold a huge 40-meter beam over the parking lot. There were also packet, APRS, and a QRP running on solar power (bonus points).

The object of the Field Day contest is to compete with about 5000 other such sites across the United States and Canada for points earned mostly by contacts and transmission types. The results of the contest will be reported in the ARRL magazine. Among the big scoring items were tasks such as copying W1AW (the ARRL's message center in Connecticut). This was no

small feat since this year it contained words such as Millennium; good practice though. In an emergency, we might have to copy "hypothermic" and other medical terms. All CW contacts were worth double phone contacts. Extra points were also earned for contacting Paul Carlin, KE6NVU, who could be anywhere in his truck.

I sat with Mike (AB6CV) at the CW table for a while. He talked with operators from Russia, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and South America during the night. Although these countries were not in the contest, they can be counted as contacts in the contest. Mike said that after midnight the US had kind of fallen asleep, but Europe was still awake. Somewhere between 1:00 and 4:00 PST, it was hard to draw a signal and the propagation charts showed that might have been the reason. When the CW tasks narrowed around 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., Mike got some "shut eye" in his car for an hour or two. When he awoke, the bands were

humming. Now at 9:00 a.m., I heard a steady stream of CW in my right ear and phone (voice) in my left ear. The phones are all from Tennessee,

Wyoming, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and the Carolinas right now. Contacts are made in one of two approaches. Either you "camp out" on a band where the operator takes whomever comes along (strong or weak signal) or you dial the bands until you find signals that are strong and then establish contact. So I am hearing "call sign, call sign, contest" over and over to my left until contact is made. Then I hear some conversation.

Next I went to talk with Elise (KF6TQB) who was operating APRS. APRS is used to track moving vehicles, boats, weather, and just for fun. It operates with a PC interfaced through a TNC (terminal node controller) to a GPS receiver and VHF radio to broadcast and track position and speed. Even if the signal weakens, APRS is still available on the Internet.

Beside the APRS station sat a packet radio system. Contacts were scrolling across the computer screen and responses typed back. Unlike APRS, there was no automatic logging here.

**Field Day - 2000
The Event of the Century....
It was Fun !!!**

Field Day 2000

by Antoinette Marchand, KA3RDV (cont'd)

Logging can occur if it is done with a bulletin board, but otherwise the information just scrolls into view and is gone as it scrolls away. Packet operates with a computer hooked to TNC and to the radio. The TNC converts the digital to voice and vice versa. The bands mostly used for this event were 144.35, 144.91, and 145.05.

A tent away sat "Sweet Polly Purebred", the fileserver for the whole event - an old 486-66 Compaq Presario CDS 524. It had adjusted well to the out-of-doors event.

As noon approached tear down began to slowly erode the scene. Tents, tables, and antenna were dissembled and tucked into trucks with close assurance that we didn't lose contacts for radios that were still in action. The camaraderie was great to watch. Groups of folks just pitching in and holding, carrying, and deciding together about what should go where. It is an obvious plus to spend these 24 hours together. The East Bay Section of the ARRL will be stronger for the experience. This kind of slow building of a team under relaxed conditions will pay off when "the real event" needs our immediate response. So we look forward to seeing you for next year's Field Day on the 4th weekend in June. It would be even greater if you would join us for many of our workshops, meetings, and other events in the interim. Until then, "KA3RDV",

**Look for SBARA on the World
Wide Web at:
<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>**

**SBARA Board Meets on The Second
Tuesday Of The Month. Please Plan
on Attending. The Meeting Starts at
7:30PM In The Evening.**

**see rudi - KF6RLQ for Complete
details.**

**To subscribe to FARTS send an email
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Please Send A blank message.

Upcoming SBARA Events - "The Portable Picnic" on Saturday, Coyote Hills Park (N. of Hwy 84), August 5th from 0800 till ????. This is a great opportunity to try out those zany antenna ideas in the field, and just play with your radios as well as picnic, walk and kibitz. The idea is to bring ONLY what you can carry, pack or drag behind you. So that pretty much restricts it to portable radios on solar, battery or crank power. The park closes by dusk. No limits or sign-ups, just show up and look for other weird equipment or antennas, and join us. You don't have to bring any equipment if you prefer, you can just help or be a guest operator. We'll meet at the parking lot in front of the visitor's center.

"Get Your APRS Tracker Box On-The-Air", Saturday, September 23rd, from 1pm-4pm at the Fremont Community Center at 40204 Paseo Padre Pkwy. You will be encouraged to collect and prepare all the necessary pieces to be plugged and programmed together at this workshop. You'll be up and running and even know a bit on how to run this stuff! Contact Al Rendon (WT6K) on recommended preparations and reservations at 510-656-2427 or wt6k@arrl.net Minimum sign-up level is 6 people to make this workshop happen.

Field Day 2000

by art - w6vv (cont'd.)

What wonderful weather for Field Day--temperature in the 70's at Central Park in Fremont. What fantastic companionship--SBARA members, families and guests. What a delightful dining experience--hot dogs in multiple varieties, hamburgers, salads, cakes, pies and ice cream for dinner, organized by Harry KF6QAK and a sumptuous breakfast consisting of pancakes, sausage, eggs, orange juice and *Krispy Kreme* doughnuts, prepared by Rudi KF6RLQ and Elise KF6TQB. Soda and water were there for the thirsty crew throughout the weekend. An excellent newspaper article about SBARA operations appeared in the Sunday Argus. Quite an accomplishment for the new Field Day committee and all the others who organized the event.

Oh, in the midst of all this, Field Day contacts were made, with stations powered by a very quiet diesel generator provided by Dave KF6QAE, or even quieter solar panels. Who needs PG&E? In case of emergency, it is comforting to know that we are ready to provide communications for the community.

There were plenty of stations operating from 160-meters and down. The cherry picker (loaned by the city of Fremont) sported a 2-element 40-meter beam this year. There were tents galore, but some operators eschewed such creature comforts and just operated from tables set up under the shade of the trees. Perhaps 160-meters and 15-meters work better when the transmitters are out in the open, hi. Six meters was not really jumping this year--too bad.

In spite of some previous concerns, we had plenty of tables and chairs. The park came trough with 40 chairs, and members brought tables. Jerry KF6TQC came with a dozen tables snagged from his job.

Perhaps computer networking for keeping track of operations is the wave of the future. It was a noble experiment, but needs some bugs worked out. We don't know what works and what doesn't if we don't try.

Thanks to James N1DDK and Rudi KF6RLQ for setting up the logging network.

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SBARA Leadership 2000 Officers

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Ham Radio Training

Emergency Communications Training Offered

The CERT Communication Team is offering a series of classes aimed at CERT members with an interest in emergency communications. These classes may also be of interest to SBARA members with similar interests. Anyone interested in Emergency Communications is welcome to attend, however, if a class becomes over-subscribed, preference will be given CERT members with a ham ticket.

Introduction to Ham Radio

This is for anyone interested in the basics of radio communication. This course is also good if you have just gotten your radio license. It covers basic radio operations, radio protocols, and a basic radio operations exercise. Learn how and what to communicate in a drill! Held on August 24th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Location is FFD Administration Offices at 39100 Liberty Street, Fremont, California.

Communication, Command, and Control

This is a two session class that outlines the process of information flow starting from the CERT field team, to the City, up to the County, and then on to the State. The County requirements and forms are introduced, CERT forms are reviewed, and the bridging of information on these forms is addressed. A hands-on simulation of using this process completes the class. Part one is held on August 31st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Part two is held on September 5th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The location for both sessions is FFD Administration Offices at 39100 Liberty Street, Fremont, California.

Basic Antennas

Learn the characteristics of some different types of antennas, types of connectors, operational safety issues, basic terms, and the review of some easy to build emergency antennas. Held on September 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Location is to be announced.

Introduction to Packet Radio

This is for anyone interested in exploring the basics of what packet radio is, its use/benefits in communication activities, how to set up and use a packet station, and a live operational demonstration. Held on October 5th 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Location is FFD Administration Offices at 39100 Liberty Street, Fremont, California.

To Register

Please contact Nancy Peterson (KF6HOI) at nfpeterson@bemis.com and provide your name, address, and phone number. All classes are free of charge. (If you don't have access to e-mail, give Doug Stinson (KG6ADR)

Club Officer Reports

The new SBARA shirts were shown off by some of the board members. They are available from the Keep-sake Factory at NewPark Mall. The shop is on the second level near Mervyns. They cost \$28 for S, M, L, XL and \$30 for XXL, plus tax. It will probably take about a



you have ordered it.

week to receive the shirt once

Name Badges by Jim - KE6IVA

Any SBARA member who would like to obtain a Name Badge for Field day can do so by contacting Jim Wood.

The Badges are \$8.00 each and include both a pin and a clip for attaching to a shirt, blouse or jacket.

Jim Wood
KE6IVA
510-657-6234

Treasurer's Report by Ted - N6BFO

Total cash assets 5/31/2000	\$2975.66
Income since then:	\$ 157.06
Expenses	<u>\$ 144.32</u>
Current balance	\$2988.40

Fremont Communications Volunteer - Meeting Minutes

by robin ney - kg6di

Meeting Minutes from the 6/14/2000 Meeting

Barbeque

- Based upon all available information, our best date currently for the barbecue is September 10th. We agreed also on noon to 3:00 p.m.
- We agreed that each of the volunteer members would bring a side dish.
- Gene volunteered to not only act as barbecue chef but to also purchase all the materials necessary. Thanks, Gene for taking on this key role.
- Reimbursement will be no problem. Gerry volunteered to be assistant chef.
- We agreed on chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, and perhaps, hot links.
- We agreed we would attempt to make the barbecue a yearly event.

July 4th

- We have been asked by the Police Department again this year to provide the usual service on July 4th. Everyone please assemble at 6:00 p.m. at the PD for the briefing.
- We will use this opportunity to test the coverage of the City-owned GMRS hand-helds.
- Elise will pick up the badges before July 4th.

Miscellaneous

- Thank you, Jerry and Elise, for taking amateur radio leadership in the local chapter of the American Red Cross.
- Thank you Elise for accepting the role of Amateur Radio Emergency Service Assistant Emergency Coordinator in Newark.
- We discussed the purchase of a trunking scanner to help keep the City abreast of emergency services outside the City. Robin will ask the City if this is a service of use and Gene will investigate a model and price.
- Robin will ask Skip to provide the information about a GMRS licensee database.

Late Breaking News

- Skip has been able to find some Fremont and Newark GMRS licensees using the facilities provided by the FCC Robin will determine if the City wishes to recruit GMRS operators outside of Newark.
- Mailing labels of amateur radio operators in Newark have been provided to the City and the fliers will be mailed to those on that list soon. We will follow-up with GMRS licensees as soon as we have a list.
- Agenda for the July 12th Meeting
- Continue planning the barbecue
- Debrief July 4th activities

12 Store Buying Power!



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AUGUST WORKSHOP

Here is your chance to build your own 2 meter/70cm dual band antenna without breaking the bank!.

SBARA's August workshop will be centered around constructing a dual band J-pole antenna that is an excellent performer. Each participant will leave the workshop with a completed antenna that can be installed for permanent use or, with an additional mast, can be taken into the field and quickly set up in emergency situations.

All materials and necessary tools will be provided by SBARA. All you need is to sign up and pay your \$10.00 to cover the materials. Registration is on a 'first come - first serve' basis and space is limited so be sure not to wait before registering.

To Register, send you \$10.00 check, payable to Doug Campbell, to:

Al Rendon - WT6K
201 Brunswick Place
Fremont, CA 94539

Please remember to include your name, call sign (if applicable), evening telephone number and most important, your e-mail address for confirmation of registration.

The Ground Plane

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

South Bay Amateur Radio Association - SBARA

P.O. Box 8377

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